

MILLINERY AND DRESSMAKING

Millinery shops also played a prominent part in the commerce of Heber, since nearly all the ladies had been schooled in the old world custom of always wearing a headdress of some kind. Many pioneer women found a place of safety for her bonnet when the wagons were being packed to come to the valley. Some few of these early pioneer hats are still in existence. Resourceful women of the pioneer era also

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wove hats of straw, but by the time the railroad came in 1899 they "imported" many of their hats from the outside world.

Earlier, however, all the hats were made right in Heber City. To give a seasonal change to the hats they re-trimmed them.

Mrs. Duncan of the Duncan House sold hats to ladies in a store just south of her hotel, and Mrs. Lovisa Alexander had a two-room shop built south of her residence at 65 S. 1st East. Alice Ryan Jones operated a very successful shop known as the Elite Millinery near her home on First North and Second East for many years. She was also a skilled teacher of her art and taught many girls how to make beautiful hats. Annie Jones Smith was also a talented milliner, and worked with Mrs. Jones for many years. She would attend the Paris Millinery School each spring to learn the latest fads and fashions. Mrs. J. W. (Effruecia) Winterrose was also a professional milliner and dressmaker, and operated a shop at 135 S. Main. Mary Bond and Ruby Murdock Gott also made and sold hats.

In 1912 Mrs. William Byrne of Park City opened a millinery shop at 54 N. Main and then later moved to 4 West Center. Her shop prospered and in 1920 she sold it to Vilate McMillan and Frankie Clift. Miss McMillan became sole operator in 1921 and expanded the business to the leading women's specialty shop in Heber. She purchased property at 136 S. Main in 1943 and established her business as Vilates Shop. She still does her own buying, selling, some of the bookkeeping, window trimming and fitting. For many years Mrs. Rachel Giles and Mrs. Mary B. McMullin did the altering for the shop.

Dressmaking was as important as millinery and most of the early milliners were equally skilled as dressmakers. Alice Ryan Jones was particularly noted for her dressmaking and many of the early brides of the county were clothed in her beautiful creations. She trained many of the best seamstresses in Heber.

For years after the settlement of Heber there was no such thing as a "ready-made" dress. Material was at first spun, and then when yardage became available the women sewed dresses from this material. Some who were most deft with the needle and thread went into business. A few of these included Mrs. Amanda Clift, Isabell Jacobs, Emma West, Rachel A. Giles, Mrs. Sue Goodwin Witt, Mrs. Mary Jensen Moulton and her daughters Millie and Josie, Mrs. Susie W. Giles, Mrs. Lizzie Witt, Lizzie Averett, Sarah Smith and Rhoda Ohlweiler.

Putting together a dress in the pre-sewing machine days was quite an art. Each dress required lining, the seams had to be cat-stitched, stiffening had to be inserted in the skirt, the waist had to be boned to insure a good figure and neatness of course was paramount. The trimming was very elaborate.